

I want to comment on how Sinclair Broadcasting is not serving our community. I live about an hour from Sinclair's local affiliate in Sacramento. I am offended that local stations are commanded what to do, and say - by a media giant.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry "documentary" days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This is plain wrong. It is seeking to influence public opinion without any "other side" being aired -- and is being dictated from the corporate owner.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

What should be done is, instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, we should see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. That does happen at our local public radio/TV stations, and even our KRON and KCBS news.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.